Review

of

Fairbury Echoes Museum

for

The Livingston County Historical Society

By: Dale C. Maley
Fairbury, Illinois

Feb 2019



What Prompted Museum Formation??

- Nation's Bi-Centennial in 1976

- Several key people
  - -We should have a way to preserve Fairbury history
  - -We should create a museum



1979 Founding of Museum



- Floyd & Marion Stafford made many donations to the Fairbury Area
- They bought and donated a 2-story house next to the Dominy Memorial Library
- Museum opened in 1979 in that house
- Museum organizationally belonged to the Dominy Library

Time-Goes-By



- Had continuous maintenance issues with the old house
- Had trouble getting volunteers to show up and run the museum
- Dominy Library decided to expand to the East, requiring Museum house to be torn down

Time-goes-by



- Decided to split the Museum and Library organizationally

- The Echoes Museum obtained it's own 501(c)3 status as a non-profit

- Decided to purchase an old building on Locust Street [Main Street] & move the museum in 2004

- Decided to be open on Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays using paid person

Successful Non-Profit Financial Models

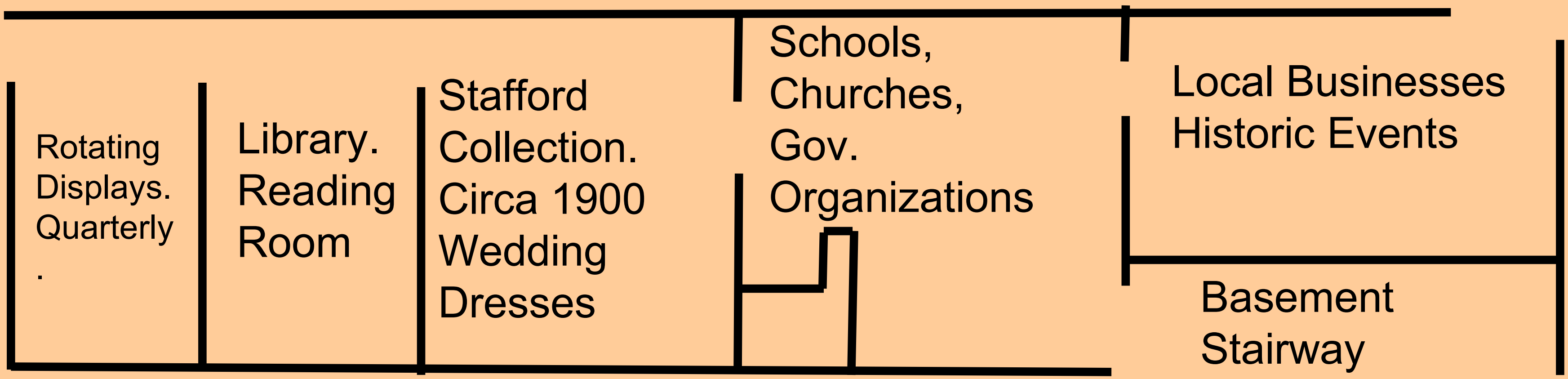
- Fairbury Odd Fellows and Masons each own their own building
  - -1st story rented to a business
  - -2nd story used by non-profit group
  - -Rental income from business covers building operating cost
- The new Echoes Museum went with similar model
- Purchased old 2-story building
  - -1/2 of First Story rented out
  - -Other ½ of First Story is Museum
  - -2nd Story usage for Museum storage
  - -avoided issue of elevator expense if museum was on 2nd story

New Fairbury Echoes Museum



New Fairbury Echoes Museum

Floor Plan – 704 Square Feet



Note: 2nd Story used to store artifacts.

Local Business Room



Local Business Room



School Room


A BOX SOCIAL
FRIDAY EVENING
"TURN 'EM OUT"
You never know who you might find in these old gradebooks. Feel free to look for a familiar name.
South Side School
C H A R L O T T E
H S-250
H S-150
CHATSWORTH

School Room


FAIRBURY-CROPSEY
MARCHING TARTARS
FAIRBURY
125TH
200
Tartars
F.C.H.S.
Class of 1968
Van Antwerp
FAIRBURY
Legion Speed
FAIRBURY
COMMUNITY
BUSINESS
DIRECTORY
2016-2017
2017-2018
2018-2019

Stafford Room



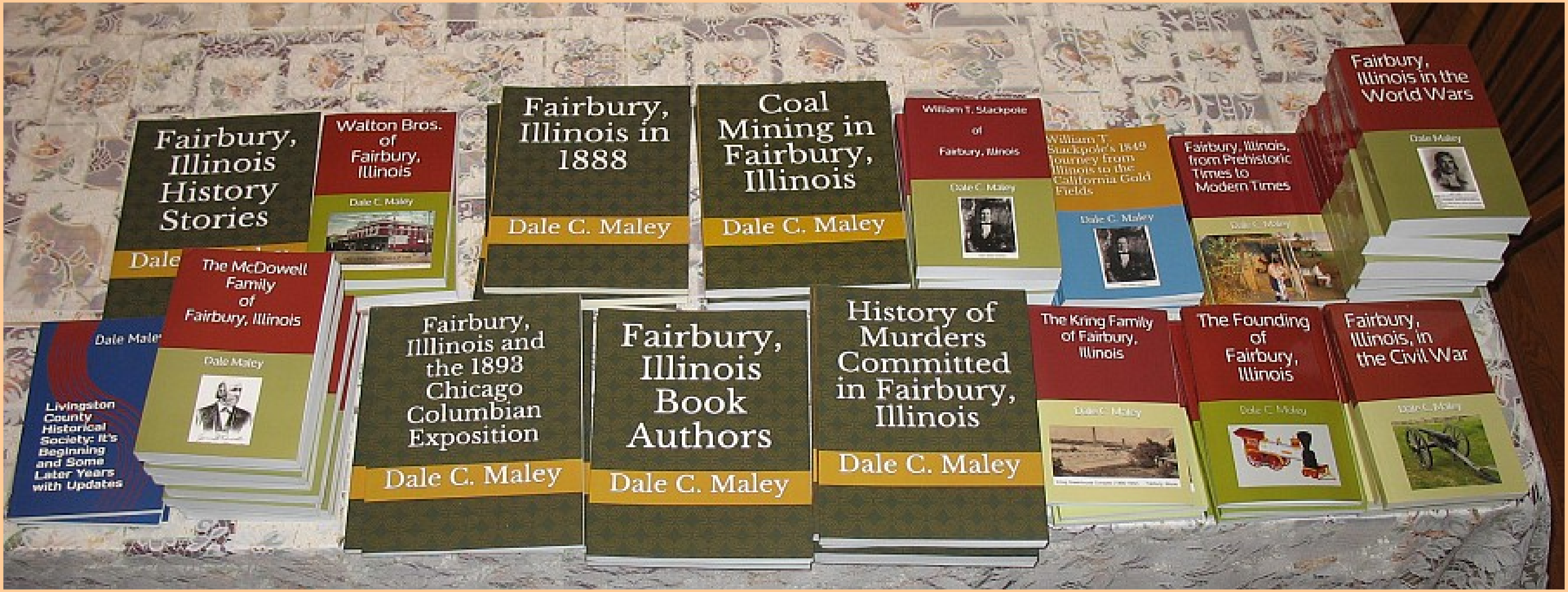
Stafford Room



Reading Room



Reading Room



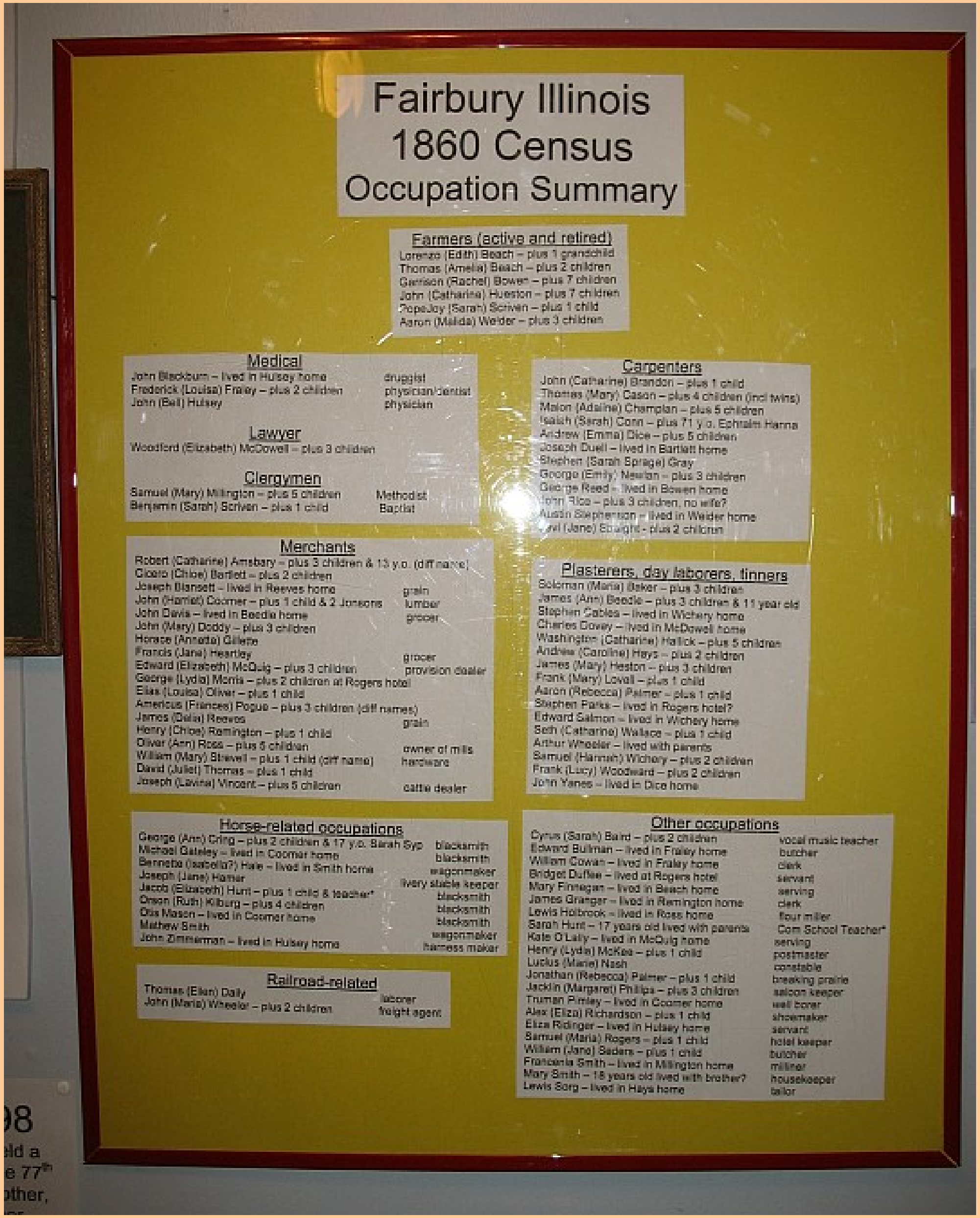
Rotating Display Room



Rotating Display Room



Rotating Display Room



Rotational Items



SOLDIER'S RECORD.

ONE COUNTRY, ONE DESTINY.

1ST LIEUTENANT. CAPTAIN. 2ND LIEUTENANT.

COMPANY E

129TH REG'T ILLINOIS VOL. INFANTRY.

PRIVATES.

NAMES. REMARKS.

AUSTIN, ROBERT L., Died at Gallatin, Tenn., March 16, 1863
ACKER, DAVID
AYERS, JAMES T., Appointed Regimental Post Master, Sept. 15, 1862
BAIRD, JESSE W
BRIGHT, JAS. A., Det'd Amb. dr. to Gen. McCooks, Med. Staff, Oct. 20, 1863.
BARRACK, ROBERT H
BURDICK, JAS. H., Died at Bowling Green, Ky., Dec. 18, 1862
BRANNAN, JAMES
BLISS, IRVIN E
BAILEY, JAMES C., Pro. 5th Cor., Feb. 15, '63; died at Gallatin, May 1, '63
BULLMAN HORATIO S., Pro. 7th Corp. Dec. 7, 1862
BANTA, GEORGE
CRULL, JAS. L., Discharged Nov. 25, 1862
CONN, JAMES T
COAN, CHARLES H
CRABB, CHARLES, Discharged Nov. 15, 1862
CANNON, TURNER H
CHAMPLIN, LEWIS C
CABLES, STEPHEN A
CURTIS, JOHN, Deserted Dec. 30, 1862
CARLTON, JOHN F
DREW, THOMAS P
DARNALL, NICHOLAS H., Discharged March 30, 1863
DARNALL, JOHN M., Pr. 6th Cor. Nov. 15, '62; died at S. Tun'l, Mar. 10, '63
DESMOND, WM. F
EARNHEART, JAS. F., Detailed Regimental Gunsmith, Sept. 7, 1862
EARNHEART, JOHN F
ENGLERT, URIAH S
ENGLERT, HIRAM W., Discharged March 16, 1863
EDWARDS, WILLIAM
FITZGERALD, ELHANAN, Deserted Dec. 30, 1862
FITZGERALD, JAS. E., Discharged Dec. 29, 1862
GILLMAN, EDWIN M
HARRISON, PRESTON

REGIMENTAL & STAFF OFFICERS.

HENRY CASE, Colonel
A. J. CROPSEY, Lieut. Colonel
THOMAS H. FLYNN, Major
PHIL. D. PLATTENBURG, Adjutant
JOHN McWILLIAMS, Quartermaster
H. C. JOHNS, Surgeon
DARIUS JOHNSON, 1st Ass't Surgeon
THOMAS COTTON, Chaplain

COMPANY OFFICERS.

COMMISSIONED.

CAPTAIN.

CYRUS N. BAIRD

FIRST LIEUTENANT.

B. F. FITCH, Promoted Feb. 26, 1863, vice John F. Blackburn, resigned

SECOND LIEUTENANT.

HARRY H. McDOWELL, Promoted from Sergeant Major, February 26, 1863, vice B. F. Fitch, promoted

NON-COMMISSIONED.

SERGEANTS.

1st. SMITH OLNEY
2d. ISAAC VAIL
3d. JOHN CUMPSTON, Died Oct. 23, 1862
4th. THOS. CLAWSON, Pro. 3d, Oct. 24, '63, died at Gallatin, Feb. 4, '63
5th. OTIS S. MASON, Pro. 4th Serg't, Oct. 24, 1863

CORPORALS.

1st. BENNETT HALL, Promoted 5th Serg't Oct. 24, 1863
2d. DAVID E. STRAIGHT, Promoted 1st Corp. Oct. 24, 1863
3d. JOHN R. PHILLIPS, Promoted 2d Corp. Oct. 24, 1863
4th. THOMAS E. SHAW, Promoted 3d Corp. Oct. 24, 1863
5th. JAMES KIRBY, Promoted 4th Corp. Oct. 24, 1863
6th. JAMES H. PHILLIPS, Promoted 5th Corp. Oct. 24, 1863
7th. JOHN A. SELLMAN, Promoted 6th Corp. Oct. 24, 1863
8th. THEODORE L. HUNT, Pro. 3d Serg't, Feb. 13, 1863

MUSICIANS.

WM. G. PHILLIPS
BENJ. F. CRABB

WAGONER.

LOCKWOOD JOHN, Died at Gallatin, Tenn., Feb. 9, 1863

PRIVATES.

NAMES. REMARKS

HILDRETH, JOSHUA T.
HINKLE, CHARLES D
HAYNES, ALBERT M
IRWIN, JESSE, Enlisted Feb. 25, 1863
JORNDT, AUGUST
KNIGHT, ROBERT, Promoted 8th Corp. Dec. 7, 1862
LAW, JOHN
McDOWELL, FRANKLIN C
McCLEAN, DANIEL
MASTON, MERILL S
MASTON, HARVEY, Died at Gallatin, Tenn., Feb. 12, 1863
MOORE, WILLIAM F., Died at Gallatin, Tenn., May 12, 1863
MOORE, GEORGE W
MORRIS, MICHAEL
MARKLE, ABE, Detached as post printer at Gallatin, Tenn., June 12, 1863
NEWTON, GEORGE A
PATTON, DAVID A
PRIEST, WM. J
REED, WILLIAM E
REED, WILLIAM
RILEA, JOSHUA D
SMITH, JOHN F
SHAW, AMOS
STRAIGHT, LEANDER L
STODDARD, SIMEON A
STAFFORD, JAMES W
SAGE, JAMES
TANNER, BOYD P., Died at Fountain Head, Tenn., Jan. 18, 1863
TANNER, ROBERT
THOMAS, CHESTER G
THOMAS, JOHN R
TITUS, ELISHA B
VAIL, HUBBARD F., Discharged June 11, 1863
WELLS, HENRY, Discharged March 19, 1863
WINCE, PHILLIP
WHEELER, MANLY A

MEMORANDUM

Cyrus N. Baird and John F. Blackburn commenced to recruit a Company at Fairbury, Livingston County, Illinois, on the 6th of August, 1862. Went into camp at Pontiac, Illinois, on the 18th of August, and on the 19th organized by electing Cyrus N. Baird, Captain; John F. Blackburn, First Lieutenant, and Benjamin F. Fitch, Second Lieutenant. On the organization of the Regiment, the Company was designated Company E.

THE 129th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry comprises five Companies from Livingston County, four from Scott County and one from Rock Island Co., Illinois, and was organized and mustered in by Capt. T. O. Barri, at Pontiac, Illinois, on the 8th Sept. 1862, with the following roster: Col. Geo. P. Smith; Lieut. Col. Henry Case; Maj. Andrew J. Cropsey; First Ass't Surg. Darius R. Johnson; Quartermaster, Wm. C. Gwin; Chaplain. Thos. Cotton; Adj't Philip D. Plattenburg. On the 22d Sept. the Reg't broke camp, and on the 24th reported to Maj. Gen. Nelson, at Louisville, Ky. Oct. 3, marched via Shelbyville, Frankfort and Harrodsburg to Crab Orchard, arriving there on the 16th. Oct. 19, marched via Danville, Perryville, Lebanon and Munfordville, to Bowling Green, Ky., arriving on the 30th. Nov. 20, 2d Assistant Surgeon Wm. H. Walters joined the Reg't. Nov. 21, marched to Mitchellsville, Tenn., and from the 4th Dec, 1862, to June 1, 1863, the Reg't has been scattered along the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, at the various stations, Richland, Fountain Head and Buck Lodge, from Mitchelsville to South Tunnel, Tenn. Dec. 4, Surgeon H. C. Johns joined the Reg't. Feb. 14, Quartermaster W. C. Gwin resigned and Lieut. John McWilliams promoted to fill the vacancy. Feb. 26, Surgeon Wm. H. Walters, res'd. May 8, Col. Geo. P. Smith resigned and Lieut. Col. Henry Case was promoted to Col. and Maj. Andrew J. Cropsey to Lieut. Col. May 25, Capt. Thos. H. Flynn, of Co. D was promoted to Maj. June 1, 1863, marched to Gallatin, Tenn., and on 6th June was assigned to the defense of Fort Thomas.

UNION

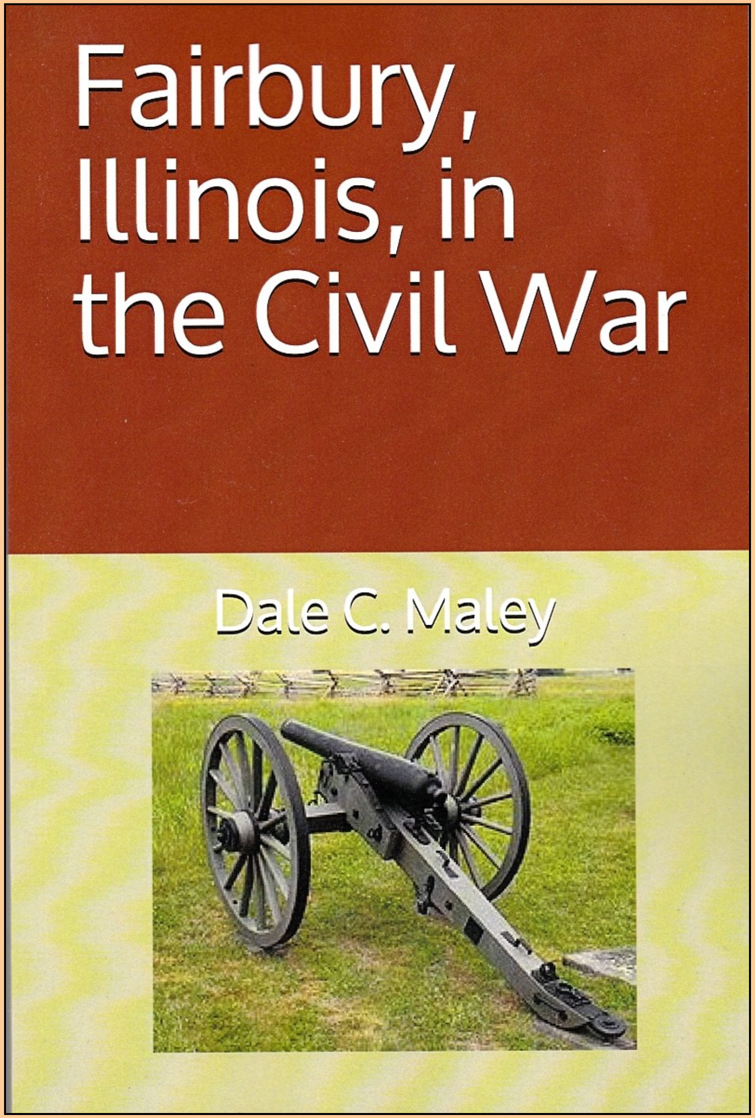
1863

Rotational Items



"Bringing history to life"

Rotational Items



Discovering 1863 poster was motivation to write this book.

Echoes Museum Management Structure

- Have 10 people on Board of Directors

- Have monthly meetings

- Always looking for new potential Board Members who are interested in Fairbury history
  - Invite new people to attend Board Meetings
  - If it works out, they are elected to the Board
  - Used to replace Board Members who can no longer serve

Echoes Museum Financials

- Need about $4,000 per year to break even

- If building is rented, we about break even

- Income sources
  - -Building rental
  - -Donations
  - -Sell historic items at Museum
  - -Sales tent at Marsh Park
  - -Garage sales

Echoes Museum Challenges

- Financial
  - -We break even if ½ of building is rented
- Lack of Museum Visitors
  - -Have relatively low attendance
  - -Have tried using Facebook, but no help
  - -Tried Guided Tours, no help
- Sustaining Board members across generations
  - -Have been successful replacing Board members
- Would like larger museum to display more items
  - -Unable to find larger building that bottom story can be split between rental & museum

Summary

- Fairbury has been able to maintain a museum for 40 years (1979-2019)

- Longevity due to several key factors
  - Several generations of dedicated volunteers
  - Able to maintain interested Board of Directors
  - Financial model of renting ½ the building
  - People donating historical Fairbury items

- Preserving Fairbury history by publishing 16+ Fairbury history books

- Working on challenge of increasing number of museum visitors.

- Investigating Archive.Org to Preserve Digital Images

Stop in and Visit

Summer Hours:	Thursday	1-4:30	
	Friday	1-4:30	
	Saturday9-11:30		
Winter Hours:	Saturday9-11:30	Jan/Feb	

Or Contact Dale C. Maley for a custom time.

-815-692-6633

-DaleMaley@Gmail.com



Questions?